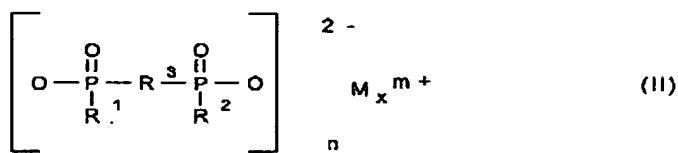
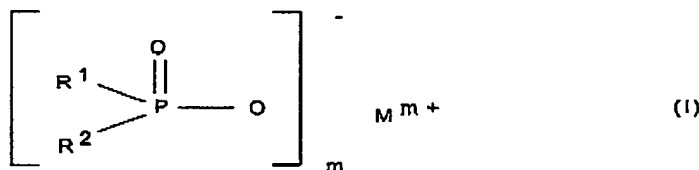


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Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A granular flame-retardant composition comprising an organophosphorus flame-retardant component, and of at least one binder wherein the at least one binder is selected from the group consisting of alkylalkoxylates having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms and from 1 to 80 EO units per mole of alcohol, caprolactam, triphenyl phosphate, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, oligomers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol, polymers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol, ethers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol, wherein the organophosphorus flame retardant is selected from the group consisting of a phosphinic salt of the formula (I), a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II), a polymer of the phosphic salt of formula (I), a polymer of the diphosphinic salt of formula (II) and mixtures thereof (component A),



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where

R¹ and R² are identical or different and are C₁-C₈-alkyl, linear or branched, or aryl;

R³ is C₁-C₁₀-alkylene, linear or branched, C₈-C₁₀-arylene, -alkylarylene, or
-arylalkylene;

M is Mg, Ca, Al, Sb, Sn, Ge, Ti, Zn, Fe, Zr, Ce, Bi, Sr, Mn, Li, Na, K, or a
protonated nitrogen base;

m is from 1 to 4;

n is from 1 to 4;

x is from 1 to 4.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 2_1, wherein M is calcium, aluminum or zinc.

4. (Currently Amended) The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 2_1, wherein R¹ and R² are identical or different and are C₁-C₈-alkyl, linear or branched, or phenyl.

5. (Currently Amended) The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 2_1, wherein R¹ and R² are identical or different, and are methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, or phenyl.

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6. (Currently Amended) The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 21, wherein R³ is methylene, ethylene, n-propylene, isopropylene, n-butylene, tert-butylene, n-pentylene, n-octylene, or n-dodecylene; phenylene; naphthylene; methylphenylene, ethylphenylene, tert-butylphenylene, methylnaphthylene, ethylnaphthylene, ; tert-butylphenylene; phenylmethlene, phenylethylene, phenylpropylene, or phenylbutylene.

7. (Currently Amended) A granular flame-retardant composition comprising an organophosphorus flame-retardant component, and of at least one binder wherein the at least one binder is selected from the group consisting of alkylalkoxylates having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms and from 1 to 80 EO units per mole of alcohol, caprolactam, triphenyl phosphate, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, oligomers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol, polymers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol, ethers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol and ~~The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 1,~~ wherein the composition further comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of melamine phosphate, dimelamine phosphate, melamine pyrophosphate, melamine polyphosphates, melam polyphosphates, melon polyphosphates, and melon polyphosphates.

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8. (Currently Amended) A granular flame-retardant composition comprising an organophosphorus flame-retardant component, and of at least one binder wherein the at least one binder is selected from the group consisting of alkylalkoxylates having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms and from 1 to 80 EO units per mole of alcohol, caprolactam, triphenyl phosphate, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, oligomers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol, polymers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol, ethers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol and ~~The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 1,~~ wherein the composition further comprises at least one melamine condensation products ~~product~~ selected from the group consisting of ~~as~~-melam, melem, and melon.

9. (Previously Presented) The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of oligomeric esters of tris(hydroxyethyl) isocyanurate with aromatic polycarboxylic acids, benzoguanamine, tris(hydroxyethyl) isocyanurate, allantoin, glycoluril, melamine, melamine cyanurate, dicyandiamide, and guanidine.

10. (Currently Amended) A granular flame-retardant composition comprising an organophosphorus flame-retardant component, and of at least one binder wherein the at least one binder is selected from the group consisting of alkylalkoxylates having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms and from 1 to 80 EO units per mole of alcohol, caprolactam, triphenyl phosphate, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, oligomers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol, polymers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol, ethers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol and ~~The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 1,~~ wherein the composition further comprises nitrogen-containing phosphates of the formulae $(\text{NH}_4)_y \text{H}_{3-y} \text{PO}_4$ and, respectively, $(\text{NH}_4 \text{PO}_3)_z$, where y is from 1 to 3 and z is from 1 to 10 000.

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11. (Currently Amended) A granular flame-retardant composition comprising an organophosphorus flame-retardant component, and of at least one binder wherein the at least one binder is selected from the group consisting of alkylalkoxylates having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms and from 1 to 80 EO units per mole of alcohol, caprolactam, triphenyl phosphate, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, oligomers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol, polymers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol, ethers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol and ~~The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 1,~~ wherein the composition further comprises as component B, a compound selected from the group consisting of a synthetic inorganic compound and a mineral product.

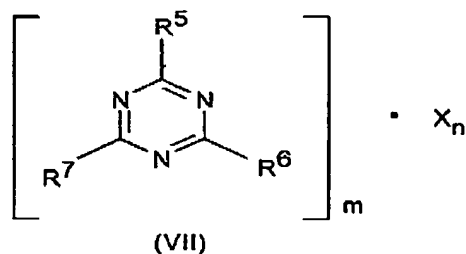
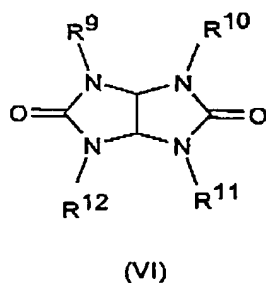
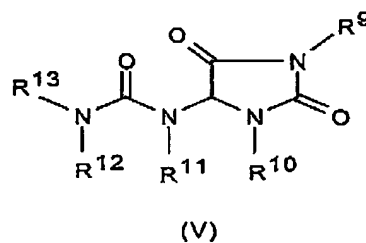
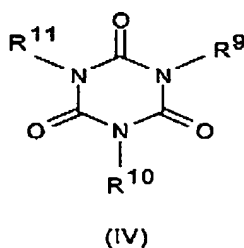
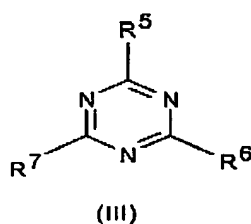
12. (Previously Presented) The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 11, wherein component B is selected from the group consisting of an oxygen compound of silicon, magnesium compounds, metal carbonates of metals of the second main group of the Periodic Table, red phosphorus, zinc compounds, and aluminum compounds.

13. (Previously Presented) The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein the oxygen compounds of silicon is selected from the group consisting of salts and esters of orthosilicic acid and condensation products thereof, silicates, zeolites, silicas, glass powder, glass/ceramic powder, and ceramic powder; wherein the magnesium compounds are selected from the group consisting of magnesium hydroxide, hydrotalcites, magnesium carbonates, and magnesium calcium carbonates; wherein the zinc compounds are selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide, zinc stannate, zinc hydroxystannate, zinc phosphate, zinc borate, and zinc sulfides; and wherein the aluminum compounds are selected from the group consisting of aluminum hydroxide and aluminum phosphate.

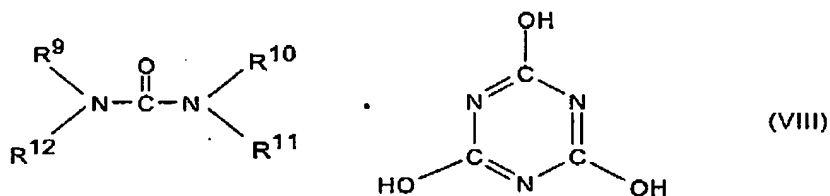
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14. (Previously Presented) The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises at least one nitrogen compound as further component C.

15. (Previously Presented) The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 14, wherein the nitrogen compounds are those of the formulae (III) to (VIII) or mixtures thereof



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where

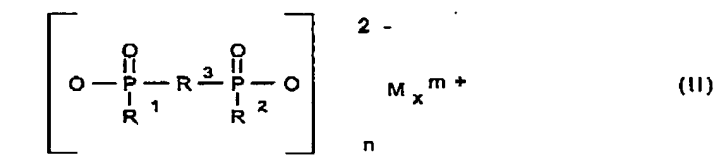
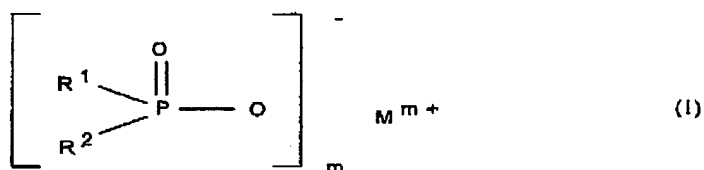
- R^5 to R^7 are hydrogen, C_1 - C_8 -alkyl, or C_5 - C_{16} -cycloalkyl or -alkylcycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with a hydroxy function or with a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl function, C_2 - C_8 -alkenyl, C_1 - C_8 -alkoxy, -acyl, -acyloxy, C_6 - C_{12} -aryl -arylalkyl, $-OR^8$, $-N(R^8)R^9$, N-alicyclic systems or N-aromatic systems,
- R^8 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_8 -alkyl, C_5 - C_{16} -cycloalkyl or -alkylcycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with a hydroxy function or with a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl function, C_2 - C_8 -alkenyl, C_1 - C_8 -alkoxy, -acyl, -acyloxy, C_6 - C_{12} -aryl or -arylalkyl,
- R^9 to R^{13} are the groups of R^8 , or $-O-R^8$,
- m and n, independently of one another, are 1, 2, 3, or 4,
- X is an acid which can form adducts with triazine compounds (III).

16. (Currently Amended) A granular flame-retardant composition comprising an organophosphorus flame-retardant component, and at least one binder, and wherein the composition further comprises at least one carbodiimide.

17. (Currently Amended) A granular flame-retardant composition comprising an organophosphorus flame-retardant component, and at least one binder, wherein the at least one binder comprises alkylalkoxylates having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms and from 1 to 80 EO units per mole of alcohol.

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18. (Currently Amended) A granular flame-retardant composition comprising an organophosphorus flame-retardant component, and of at least one binder, wherein the at least one binder is selected from the group consisting of caprolactam and triphenyl phosphate, wherein the organophosphorus flame retardant is selected from the group consisting of a phosphinic salt of the formula (I), a diposphinic salt of the formula (II), a polymer of the phosphic salt of formula (I), a polymer of the diposphinic salt of formula (II) and mixtures thereof (component A).



where

R¹ and R² are identical or different and are C₁-C₈-alkyl, linear or branched, or aryl;

R³ is C₁-C₁₀-alkylene, linear or branched, C₆-C₁₀-arylene, -alkylarylene, or -arylalkylene;

M is Mg, Ca, Al, Sb, Sn, Ge, Ti, Zn, Fe, Zr, Ce, Bi, Sr, Mn, Li, Na, K, or a protonated nitrogen base;

m is from 1 to 4;

n is from 1 to 4;

x is from 1 to 4.

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19. (Previously Presented) A granular flame-retardant composition comprising an organophosphorus flame-retardant component, and of at least one binder, wherein the at least one binder is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, oligomers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol, polymers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol, ethers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or butylene glycol and mixtures thereof.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed claim 1, wherein the composition has a median particle size of from 100 to 10 000 μm .

23. (Previously Presented) The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition has an average bulk density of from 200 to 1 500 g/l.

24. (Previously Presented) The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of the amount of the at least one binder to that of the organophosphorus flame-retardant component is from 1:99 to 1:0.11.

25. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing granular flame-retardant composition, comprising the steps of adding, in a mixer, at least one binder in liquid form to an organophosphorus flame-retardant component, which has been set in motion, and mixing for a time period of from 0.01 to 1 hour at a temperature between 50 to 300°C.

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26. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing granular flame-retardant composition, comprising the steps of adding, in a mixer, at least one binder in solid form to an organophosphorus flame-retardant component, which has been set in motion, mixing at a temperature from 50 to 300°C for from 0.01 to 1 hour, and during the process heating to the melting point of the at least one binder.

27. (Previously Presented) A flame-retardant polymer molding composition comprising a granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 1.

28. (Previously Presented) The flame-retardant polymer molding composition as claimed in claim 27, further comprising
from 1 to 50% by weight of granular flame-retardant composition,

from 1 to 99% by weight of thermoplastic polymer or a mixture of thermoplastic polymers, and
from 0 to 60% by weight of filler.

29. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant polymer molding composition as claimed in claim 27, further comprising
from 5 to 30% by weight of granular flame-retardant composition,

from 5 to 90% by weight of the thermoplastic polymer or a mixture of thermoplastic polymers, and
from 5 to 40% by weight of filler.

30. (Previously Presented) The flame-retardant polymer molding composition as claimed in claim 27, further comprising at least one of at least one nitrogen compound and a synthetic inorganic compound or mineral product.

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31. (Previously Presented) The flame-retardant polymer molding composition as claimed in claim 28, wherein the thermoplastic polymer or mixture of thermoplastic polymers are selected from the group consisting of HI (high-impact) polystyrene, polyphenylene ethers, polyamides, polyesters, polycarbonates, and blends or polyblends represented by ABS (acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene), or PC/ABS (polycarbonate/acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene).

32. (Previously Presented) The flame-retardant polymer molding composition as claimed in claim 28, wherein the thermoplastic polymer or the mixture of thermoplastic polymers are selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polyester, and ABS.

33. (Previously Presented) A polymer article comprising a granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of a polymer molding, a polymer film, a polymer filament and a polymer fiber.

34. (Previously Presented) A polymer article as claimed in claim 33; wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic or thermoset polymer.

35. (Previously Presented) A polymer article as claimed in claim 34, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is selected from HI (high-impact) polystyrene, polyphenylene ethers, polyamides, polyesters, polycarbonates, or blends or polyblends represented by ABS (acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene), or PC/ABS (polycarbonate/acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene), polyamide, polyester, and ABS.

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36. (Previously Presented) A polymer article as claimed in claim 34, wherein the thermoset polymer is selected from the group consisting of formaldehyde polymers, epoxy polymers, melamine polymers, or phenolic resin polymers, and polyurethanes.

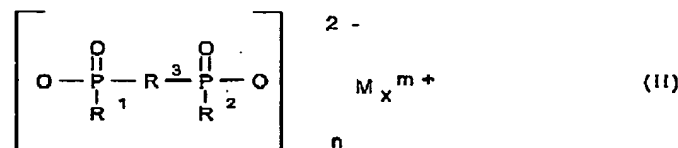
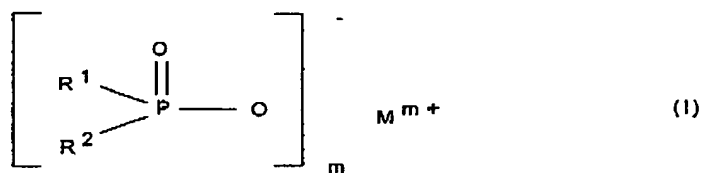
37. (Previously Presented) A polymer article as claimed in claim 33, comprising from 1 to 50% by weight of granular flame-retardant composition, from 1 to 99% by weight of polymer or a mixture of polymers, and from 0 to 60% by weight of filler.

38. (Previously Presented) A polymer article as claimed in claim 33, comprising: from 5 to 30% by weight of granular flame-retardant composition, from 5 to 90% by weight of polymer or a mixture of polymers, and from 5 to 40% by weight of filler.

39. (Previously Presented) The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one binder is selected from the group consisting of carnauba waxes and montan waxes.

40. (Currently Amended) A granular flame-retardant composition comprising an organophosphorus flame-retardant component, and of at least one binder, wherein the at least one binder comprises phenolic resins, wherein the organophosphorus flame retardant is selected from the group consisting of a phosphinic salt of the formula (I), a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II), a polymer of the phosphic salt of formula (I), a polymer of the diphosphinic salt of formula (II) and mixtures thereof (component A).

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where

R¹ and R² are identical or different and are C₁-C₈-alkyl, linear or branched, or aryl;

R³ is C₁-C₁₀-alkylene, linear or branched, C₆-C₁₀-arylene, -alkylarylene, or -arylalkylene;

M is Mg, Ca, Al, Sb, Sn, Ge, Ti, Zn, Fe, Zr, Ce, Bi, Sr, Mn, Li, Na, K, or a protonated nitrogen base;

m is from 1 to 4;

n is from 1 to 4;

x is from 1 to 4.

41. (Previously Presented) The granular flame retardant composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition has a median particle size from 200 to 2000µm.

42. (Previously Presented) The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition has an average bulk density of from 300 to 800 g/l.

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43. (Previously Presented) The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of the amount of the at least one binder to that of the organophosphorus flame-retardant component is from 1:49 to 1:0.25.

44. (Previously Presented) The granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of the amount of the at least one binder to that of the organophosphorus flame-retardant component is from 1:19 to 1:1.

45. (New) A flame retardant polymer molding composition comprising a granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 16.

46. (New) A flame retardant polymer molding composition comprising a granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 17.

47. (New) A flame retardant polymer molding composition comprising a granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 18.

48. (New) A flame retardant polymer molding composition comprising a granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 19.

49. (New) A granular flame-retardant composition made in accordance with the process of claim 25.

50. (New) A flame retardant polymer molding composition comprising a granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 49.

51. (New) A granular flame-retardant composition made in accordance with the process of claim 26.

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52. (New) A flame retardant polymer molding composition comprising a granular flame-retardant composition as claimed in claim 51.